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Kenneth Lee Alkema, Director
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August 30, 1984

Mr. Eric Johnson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1860 Lincoln Street
Denver, Colorado 80295

Subject: Site inspection report for Prospector Square,
Park City, Utah

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Submitted herewith is a site inspection report for Prospector Square, Park City, Utah.

Based upon information available at the time of this inspection, it is recommended that this site be given National Priority List consideration.

Prospector Square is located in the NE 1/4 of section 9, T25, R4E of the Park City East Quadrangle and is approximately 1/2 mile east of the intersection of highway 224 on Alt. 40.

Mill tailings were first deposited on Prospector Square in the early 1900's by several mining companies (mostly silver). It was thought that some of the tailings were slurried to Prospector Square by use of Silver Creek. Mill tailings were deposited on-site until the 1930's. The tailings cover approximately 80 acres and range in depth from 1 to 60 feet.

In the early 1940's Pacific Bridge reworked the tailings. Solvents and acids were used to leach out silver. Pacific Bridge used an in situ treatment so the tailings never left Prospector Square. Exact details on Pacific Bridges operation cannot be found, they have long since been out of business.

In the late 70's and early 80's commercial developers started building homes and businesses on Prospector Square. The tailings were not properly covered and are still exposed in undeveloped areas of Prospector Square.

Corrected per
Don Verbitz
call
9-19-84

The Utah State Department of Health (USDH) first became aware of a potential problem on Prospector Square when the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey (UGMS) was asked by Park City to do a special geological study in 1984. The study was designed to look at the engineering geology of Park City for future development. During the study the UGMS took boreholes soil samples on Prospector Square. The analytical results of the soil samples showed concentrations of lead at 4000 ppm, cadmium at 89 ppm, arsenic at 400 ppm and silver at 70 ppm.

After receiving UGMS's results, the USDH collected water samples off Silver Creek which showed higher concentrations of lead below Prospector Square when compared with the samples taken above Prospector Square.

In April 1984, the USDH along with Summit County Health Department and the Rocky Mountain Center of Occupational and Environmental Health conducted a health effect study. Blood samples were taken from approximately 38 children. The highest child's blood lead level found was 28 mg/deciliter, and the average was 9 mg/deciliter.

Dust samples were taken during the site inspection conducted in June 1984. Three homes were sampled and the analytical results of one home showed concentrations of lead at 4072 ug/g, silver at 28 ug/g and cadmium at 42 ug/g.

With the additional information, the site was rescored for NPL consideration. The new score given Prospector Square was 46.63. This is above the cutoff point of 28.50.

If you have any questions please contact Don Verbica.

Sincerely,



Dale D. Parker, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
Utah Solid and Hazardous Wastes
Committee

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